



A conference was held at Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, on February 7 between Secretary Chamberlain and about forty Boers of the extreme party, including Christian De Wet, and it was shown that there is a strong feeling of defiance against the British rule existing in the Transvaal. Some fear of a rebellion is expressed.

John H. Carroll, United States consul at Cadiz, Spain, died at Mentone February 7.

Advices from Copenhagen are to the effect that the sale of the Danish West Indies is about to be revived and proposals have been received from France in regard to their purchase.

The czar of Russia recently ordered severe disciplinary measures to be taken against all Finlanders who failed to comply with their military obligations in 1902 and this action has caused a great deal of criticism and restlessness in Finland. Obstacles are raised on every hand against the enforcement of this order and much troubles ensues.

Earthquake disturbances were reported from several points in the southern part of the United States on February 8, two distinct shocks being experienced at St. Louis, Mo. No extensive damage was reported.

A destructive storm and tidal wave swept over the South sea islands recently and dispatches received at San Francisco estimate the loss of life at 1,000. The Society islands and the Tuainotu group were almost directly in the path of the hurricane and suffered exceedingly. Several islands are almost depopulated and great destitution exists.

According to a decision rendered on February 9 in the United States circuit court of appeals in San Francisco the income tax of Hawaii was fully sustained and the court maintains that "it places the burden of taxation upon the points of strongest resistance, where it is easiest borne."

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, the former Irish leader, man of letters and prime minister to Queen Victoria, died on February 9 at Nice. He was born in Ireland in 1816.

It was reported from Manila on February 9 that a force of 100 constabulary had defeated a body of 200 insurgents a short distance from the city after a severe engagement. The leader of the constabulary, Inspector Harris, was killed, and several men were wounded.

The former Colombian revolutionist, General Uribe-Uribe, is said to have committed suicide on January 30, according to recent advices from Kingstown, Jamaica. His attitude in regard to the Panama canal treaty is said to have the support of a large number of Colombians and there is a possibility of another revolution in opposition to that measure.

By a vote of 43 to 1 the Illinois state senate recently adopted a joint resolution in favor of electing United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Another appeal in behalf of the starving people of the northern provinces

of Sweden has been made by the governor of Noorbatten, the most northerly island of that country. According to the Associated press, it will require \$1,900,000 to avert starvation until the next harvest. The governor of the state of Kansas has issued an appeal on behalf of the famine-stricken people of Sweden and great efforts are to be made to supply them with the necessaries of life.

The Venezuelan question remains still unsettled and no prediction can yet be made as to the terms or time of agreement. It is reported that the complete showing of Venezuela's case has been made to the allied powers by Minister Bowen and he and the representatives of Great Britain have come to an understanding and the British protocol has been accepted by Venezuela. On February 11 it was given out that Germany had ignored her previous agreement with Mr. Bowen and had insisted on a cash payment of \$340,000 or a lien on one Venezuelan port until this amount shall be paid. This demand has been refused by Mr. Bowen on the ground that that would be preferential treatment, and that no such concessions would be made until after The Hague decision. Great Britain and Italy have renounced all responsibility for the action of Germany in the matter.

It was recently announced from Caracas, Venezuela, that the revolution against the government of President Castro is practically at an end as the revolutionary forces have been compelled to abandon their operations because of a lack of ammunition.

The local democracy at Lincoln mourns the death of Mr. L. N. Zieger who departed this life a few days ago. His zeal and constancy had greatly endeared him to his party associates.

It was announced on February 10 that the republics of Central America had declared war, with Guatemala on the one side and Salvador and Honduras on the other. Although this report was not officially confirmed at the time, it was known and admitted that the situation was a critical one and the United States had determined to order a war vessel to the scene to be ready to protect American interests. A later report dated February 11 says that Guatemala has not declared war, but that Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua are menacing that government and it is preparing to defend itself.

On February 11 the state senate of Kansas adopted a resolution asking congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of amending the United States constitution so that United States senators may be elected by direct vote of the people.

It was reported from Rome on February 12 that General Ricciotti Garibaldi, one of the sons of the great patriot, who raised a force of Italian volunteers for Greece in the Graeco-Turkish war, is organizing a volunteer expedition to assist the Macedonians in the rising against Turkish rule, which is believed to be impending.

On February 12 the Oregon house of representatives passed the senate bill prohibiting the employment of

children under 16 years of age during school hours, or children under 14 years of age in shops or factories, or as messenger boys.

According to a Tacoma, Wash., dispatch dated February 12, H. F. Krohn-skyn of Zeoul, Korea, arrived in Tacoma today on his way to New York and Philadelphia to contract for idols to be used in the heathen temples of his country as well as for China. He is sent by a wholesale firm and has models with him. He says that a few years ago an American firm sent a few idols as a gift to one of the sacred orders and a demand for them has resulted.

On February 13 it was announced that Minister Bowen had signed each of the protocols with the representatives of the allied powers of Great Britain, Germany and Italy and provision was made for an immediate raising of the blockade, together with a reference of the question of preferential treatment of the claims involved to The Hague tribunal. It is also provided that Venezuela is to have all her vessels that have been captured returned to her.

Another effort is to be made to pass the omnibus statehood bill in the senate by adding it as an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill, and the vote on this proposal stood 8 to 5.

It was announced on February 13 that the issues between San Domingo and the United States, arising from claims of the latter country, are in a fair way to be amicably and satisfactorily adjusted by arbitration through the efforts of Minister Powell.

Senator Cullom, chairman of the foreign relations committee, had a conference with President Roosevelt on February 13 in regard to the Panama treaty and the Cuban reciprocity measures and it is evident that

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the president is very anxious to have favorable consideration of these measures during the present session. It is reported that in case no action is taken by the senate Mr. Roosevelt will call an extra session.

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